GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2319
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
FOOD FOR WORK
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice distributed to Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States under the food for work during 2001-2002;

(b) the number of persons that were expected to be benefited and the works to be completed in one year;

(c) whether the facts have been verified that the rice was distributed properly and the works were completed;

(d) whether irregularities in distribution of rice and in completion of works have come to notice of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken against defaulters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) During 2001-02, under the Food for Work Programme, foodgrains to the tune of16,50,000 MTs (Rice) were released to the Andhra Pradesh, 1,00,000 MTs (57,460 MTs of Rice and 42540 MTs of Wheat) to Karnataka and 5000 MTs (Rice) to Kerala.

(b) Under the programme, benefit is measured in terms of mandays of employment generated for the rural poor. As per the progress report received from the State, 1982.48 lakh mandays were generated during the year 2001-02 in Andhra Pradesh. The State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka did not report progress in respect of employment generation.

(c) As per the reports received from these states, the foodgrains allocated were lifted and utilised by the State Governments.

(d)&(e) In case of Kerala, 5000 tonnes of Rice was allocated under theFood for Work Programme for people affected by heavy rains. The foodgrains were distributed among affected people free without taking up works because of heavy rains which was not as per the guidelines of the Food for Work Programme. This matter has been referred to theState Government of Kerala for taking remedial action to regularize the foodgrains allocated under the programme. In case of Andhra Pradesh, some complaints have beenreceived in the Ministry as well as some press reports appeared in newspapers regarding misappropriation of foodgrains allocated under the Food for Work Programme (FFWP).These complaints were referred to the State Government for taking up appropriate andremedial action. The State Governement of Andhra Pradesh have reported that 105Government officials, 6 Sarpanches, 56 Rice Millers, 94 Fair Price Shop Dealers and 73Transporters were found to be involved in irregularities. The State Government haveinitiated action against these erring officials/persons.